



Central South Dakota Outdoor Report

Wildlife Division – Region 2



Brule/Buffalo Counties

Diana Schroeder



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

The marinas in Chamberlain area are iced over. The channel is starting to freeze. The fish cleaning stations are closed. The minimum length restriction is 15 inches with one walleye over 20 inches. The daily possession limit is 4 walleyes. The area between the Interstate Bridge and Railroad Bridge is open to fishing from a boat until December.

Be sure to double check your boat safety equipment (sufficient life jackets for everyone on board, fire extinguisher, and a throw able device) and boat registration before hitting the water.



Hunting Report:

Canada goose season, Unit 2, opened west of Hwy 50 south, down to 350th Ave on November 3rd. The daily limit for Unit 2 is 4 geese. White-fronted geese daily limit is 2. Light geese daily possession is 50.

Duck season in the Low Plains zone opened September 27th east of Hwy 50. The High Plain Zone opened October 11th which includes west of Hwy 50. Holoubek and Red Lake GPAs are frozen over. Some flocks of mallards have been feeding in cornfields near the Chamberlain area.

Prairie chicken and grouse season opened September 20th. Landowners have reported seeing increased grouse numbers in the Chamberlain area this year.

Pheasant brood routes numbers have increased 76% more than last year state-wide. The regular pheasant season opened for residents and nonresidents on October 18th. Hunters reported seeing many roosters on the public hunting areas near Chamberlain. Hunters have reported seeing most of the pheasant south of Kimball.

Youth/Mentor deer season opened September 13th to January 15th.

Bow season for deer opened September 27th and closes December 31st. Antlerless tags ONLY open January 1st to the 15th. Any deer or any whitetail deer tags are not eligible for the January season.

Fall turkey season opened November 1st and closes January 31st.

East River rifle season opens November 22nd. The season closes this Sunday the 7th. Antlerless or doe tags ONLY are valid December 27 – January 4th. Any deer or any whitetail deer tags do not transfer to doe tags. Be sure to wear your required orange garments. Reminder: If you shoot a deer and it runs onto private property or property you don't have permission to enter, you must receive permission to retrieve your deer.

Stay safe!

Campbell County

Doug DeLaRoi



Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below*

Small ponds and sloughs are frozen over. Small lakes had no use. Lake Oahe has frozen over with ice building, be cautious of thin ice.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant hunters are finding success averaging 1 bird per hunter.

Corson/Dewey Counties

Shawn Madison:



Fishing Report:

Pudwell Dam: Good fish populations including several year classes of walleye, largemouth bass, crappie, and perch. Fishing activity has been low.

Morristown East: No activity but stocking efforts past two years has been successful for largemouth and crappies. Fish size is small. Some northern pike.

Morristown West: No activity. perch stockings have been successful ranging from 8-10 inches.

Trail City Dam: Little to no activity and a lot of small northern pike showed up in surveys.

Little Moreau #1: Activity low but casting lures are good for pike and bass. Some large crappies and bluegill.

Little Moreau #2: Catching nice size rainbow trout on lures and corn with salmon eggs. Stocked 1200 Rainbow trout in the beginning of June 2014. Another stocking of 1200 rainbows the third week of September.

Isabel Lake: Some activity. Walleyes being caught using trolling crank baits and spinners. Largemouth bass have been biting. Nice population of bluegill, some large being caught. Fish from the new fishing dock.

Eagle Butte Dam: Little activity. Year classes of bluegill look very good ranging from 6-8 inches. Bass numbers are very good as well as perch



Hunting Report:

Geese and ducks have left the area for the most part. Grouse is open, hatch was fair but numbers are still low. Hunters had mixed success but overall a good experience. 70 percent of the harvest was young birds. Some reports of partridge in spots. Pheasant is open but pressure is very high in the Firesteel and Timber lake area. Numbers are better than last year but still below the ten year average. Hunters had mixed success averaging about one bird a piece. Lots of hunters on public lands and WIA. Birds are very flighty. Deer season is closed in Corson and Dewey

Charles Mix/Douglas Counties

Jeff Martin



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

Warm temps have made early ice on the river very unstable; it is not advised to go out at this time.



Hunting Report:

Rut activity is pretty minimal; most deer are hitting feed hard. Pheasants and deer will be found in areas of heavy cover. There are still some geese around the Wheeler and Pease areas as well as south of Wagner.

Gregory County

Hans Walleser



Fishing Report:

Ice fishing season is here. Make sure you have a valid license and stay within the daily and possession limits.

Always check ice with a spud bar before venturing out. All bodies of water do not create ice equally. One pond may have 6 inches and another only 2.



Hunting Report:

West River Deer season ended on November 30.

Antlerless season extension: only those tags specifically designated as "antlerless" are valid from December 27 - January 4 for all west river units. "Any" deer tags **no longer** convert for this extended season.

Muzzleloader deer season opened on December 1 and ends on December 31. Make sure you have a valid tag and are hunting open unit.

Pheasant season closes on January 4. Daily limit is 3, possession is 15.

Hyde/Hand Counties

Cory Flor



Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below*
No Report



Hunting Report:
No Report

Hughes County

John Murphy



Fishing Report:

Ice conditions are improving, please be careful.



Hunting Report:

Deer hunting in Hughes County has been good, good numbers of deer have been seen. People are reminded that the season closes December 7th east river. People are reminded to get out of their vehicle to go hunting. Pheasant hunters are still doing well in thick cover, hunters are reminded to go over road hunting regulations in the hunting handbook. Waterfowl hunting is fair, not a lot of geese and ducks in Hughes County.

Jones County

Brian Ridgway



Fishing Report: **See Missouri River Report below**

Many stock dams in the area have 6-9" of ice allowing anglers to punch holes in the ice for pan fish opportunities. Early season ice can provide some fast action bites.



Hunting Report:

Deer hunters found moderate success during West River Rifle season. Hunters willing to brave the cold and wind were able to take advantage of the deer movement. Deer activity has slowed down after the peak rut and large groups of does are starting to congregate.

Lyman County

Brian Ridgway



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

Fishermen are experiencing success on Lake Francis Case. Most anglers are catching smaller 12"-14" walleye and smallmouth. Determined anglers have been able to scratch out a few limits of fish in the 16"-20" range. Walleye are being caught below the Big Bend Dam at Ft. Thompson and along the Legion Memorial Causeway. Anglers experiencing the most success are fishing around sunset.



Hunting Report:

The annual goose migration has started. Rafts of geese are starting to arrive on Lake Francis Case along with several species of divers and puddle ducks. Hunters are reminded to check their shotguns for a magazine capacity plug. Federal regulations require shotguns to be able to hold no more than three shells at a time (2 in the magazine and 1 in the chamber) Also Federal regulations require the use of non-toxic shot for waterfowl on all lands publicly and **PRIVATELY** owned.

Potter County

Brad Saltsman



Fishing Report: See Missouri River report below:

Potts Dam – Ice on Potts Dam is 8-10 inches thick. Anglers not reporting anything for catch
Lake Hurley – Ice is 8 inches. Anglers have been catching decent sized perch.
Simon Dam – ice is 8-10 inches. No Activity.
Missouri River – No fishing pressure at the current time.



Hunting Report:

Waterfowl – All of the small lakes and ponds are frozen over. The Missouri River is holding some geese and ducks

Grouse – There are very few grouse in Potter and southern Walworth counties. Hunters will find the grouse in NW Potter and SW Walworth counties.

Deer – East River deer ends this weekend. All “Any Deer” tags will be void after December 7th. All “Antlerless Deer” tags will be valid from December 27th – January 4th. Muzzleloader deer opened December 1.

Pheasants – The regular pheasant season is open. Most of the birds are flocked up in areas of good winter cover. Birds can be found in trees, cattails and food plots.

Stanley County

Josh Thompson



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below.

Fishermen are reminded that the daily limit for walleye is 4, of which only 1 of those 4 walleye may be 20 inches or longer.

The minimum length limit for walleye caught on Lake Sharpe is 15 inches.

Twin Dams – Little fishing activity observed.

Hayes Lake – Little fishing activity observed.

Ft. Pierre Nat. Grasslands – Little fishing activity observed.

Lake Oahe – Fishing activity has slowed.

Lake Sharpe – Fishing activity has slowed.



Hunting Report:

Reminder that December 7th, 2014 is the final day of the East River Deer Season. Only antlerless deer tags will be valid Dec. 27th – Jan. 4th.

Pheasant – Bird numbers have been good. Anticipate that birds will be seeking more shelter and cover in these cooler temperatures.

Grouse – Still seeing a good mix of sharp-tailed grouse and prairie chicken. The birds are starting to bunch into larger groups.

For any further information, Game, Fish & Parks hunting and fishing handbooks are available at local licensing agents; or you can visit the SD Game, Fish & Parks website at www.gfp.sd.gov.

Sully County

Andy Schmahl



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below.

Cottonwood Lake: The ice on Cottonwood Lake has been forming steadily, and guys have been trying their luck on the ice, but so far, fishing hasn't been very good.

Lake Oahe: The cold and windy weather has kept most boaters off of the big lake for a while. The bays have a little ice in them, but are still open for the most part. Another run of cold weather may freeze them up enough to prevent boats from getting out.



Hunting Report:

Pheasants: Pheasant hunters have been having mixed luck, with most of the birds buried deep in cover, while the rest have become very wild.

Deer: Deer hunters had tremendous success with the mild weather of opening weekend. There aren't a lot of deer hunters still out there, as most of the tags seem to be filled.

Waterfowl: Southwest Sully County has been pretty good for both Canada Geese and Ducks. Numbers aren't terribly high yet, but there are good flocks of birds working in areas, and scouting is the key to a successful hunt.

Tripp/Todd/Mellette Counties

Chris Dekker



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

The cold snap has iced up most of the area lakes. I have not heard of guys ice fishing the area yet, but there was enough ice



Hunting Report:

Deer season was good. Many happy hunters and a lot of deer harvested.

Walworth County

Doug DeLaRoi/Brad Saltsman



Fishing Report: See Missouri River report below

Small ponds and sloughs are frozen over. Small lakes have had no use. Lake Oahe has frozen over with ice building, be cautious of thin ice.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant hunters are finding success averaging 1 bird per hunter.

Missouri River report:

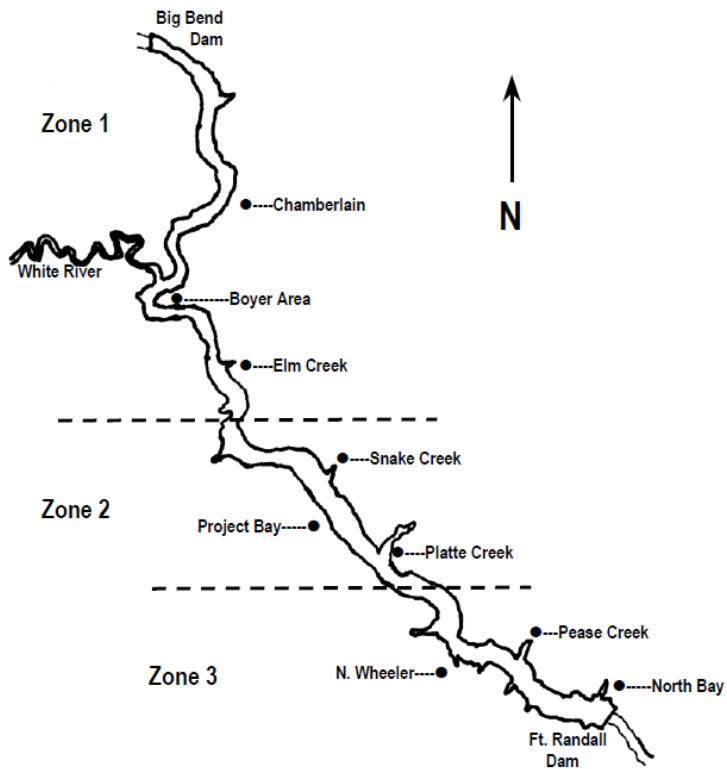
Lake Oahe and Lake Sharpe
Kyle Potter

Lake Oahe

No Report

Lake Sharpe

No Report



Lake Francis Case

Rachel Tribble

Zone 1 – No Report

Zone 2 – No Report

Zone 3 – No Report